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Agency
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Office of
Public Affairs
John F. Kennedy Federal Building
Boston, Massachusetts 02203

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For more information call 617/223-5246

Chris Jendras

BOSTON---The U. S. Environmental Protection Agency has authorized \$350,000 from Superfund to continue a study on the potential impacts of dredging and disposing of sediments from New Bedford (MA) Harbor. The study is being conducted by the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers.

The next phase of the Harbor work will focus on the evaluation of the potential for resuspension of contaminants and contaminated sediments during dredging, the ultimate fate of those sediments and possible ways to control resuspension.

Work will also be started on the an evaluation of the potential for dredged sediments to produce leachate (formed when water moves through wastes and dissolves contaminants). This information will be used to decide whether a bottom liner would be needed if dredged sediments are disposed of in a proposed containment facility along the edge of the harbor.

Today's allocation of funds represents partial funding of the Harbor focused feasibility study. The total cost for the Corps of Engineers study is \$1.6 million.

Because Congress has not yet reauthorized Superfund, which expired on September 30, the entire study cannot be funded at this time.

Other phases of the study that remain to be funded are:

- " An evaluation of the necessary cap thickness (of clean material) for those options where a cap is subject to tidal action: channelization and the "pineapple upside-down cake" options.
- " An evaluation of the current health and productivity of wetlands on the eastern shore of the estuary, the potential impacts on the wetlands of the cleanup measure and ways to minimize the impacts if that area were used for an in-harbor containment site.

EPA is continuing its study, called a remedial investigation, to evaluate the type and extent of contamination throughout the harbor. Once that is done, the Agency will also conduct a feasibility study to evaluate cleanup options for the entire harbor.